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Testimony regarding Raised Bill No. 498, An Act Authorizing Bonds of the State for A Facility in Manchester for Persons with Developmental Disabilities.

Good Afternoon,

I am here to speak in favor of raised S.B. 498.

My name is Nathan Agostinelli and I am the co-chair of MARC, Inc.'s building committee. I am a former mayor of Manchester and State Comptroller. In my many roles, I have had the opportunity to see MARC grow. The organization has a long history and has continually expanded services to meet the needs of people with disabilities and their families. MARC is responsive to community needs and has provided a consistent, positive contribution to Manchester and the surrounding area over the years.

MARC has been part of the Manchester community for over 56 years. The organization provides supports to individuals with community jobs, residential services, retirement services, respite, self advocacy, and recreation. They are truly a community partner who works in the best interests of Manchester and the region.

MARC is asking the legislature to help fund a new building. The additional space needed will serve more individuals and allow the organization to grow to meet the increasing demand for all types of services. The new facility will provide MARC with much needed space for a variety of things including: additional senior center space for the aging population, space for nursing, physical and occupational therapy, conference/training areas for MARC use and community use after hours, additional space for MARC shredding and vending services, outdoor educational and recreational areas for people served, and a safe designated pickup/drop off area. MARC has always done a top notch job providing services to people with disabilities and they require a new building to continue to do so.

Supporting S.B. #498 makes sure that people with disabilities get the help they need to keep jobs, homes and choose their services in keeping with support needs and grants access to new service areas.